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News Release

For Immediate Release: April 1, 2016

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Jail Sentence in 2014 DUI crash

LIHU'E - Jason David Dameron, 40, of Kōloa, will spend a year in jail and serve a term of probation following a 2014 drunk driving crash that left a woman seriously injured.

Fifth Circuit Chief Judge Randal G.B. Valenciano handed the sentence down after hearing arguments from Prosecuting Attorney Justin F. Kollar and defense counsel Robert F. Miller.

Prior to imposing the sentence, Jessica Arps, the victim in the case, addressed the Court. Arps told the Court how, on April 4, 2014, Dameron crashed into her as she stood next to her vehicle at the Menehune Fishpond lookout in Līhu'e. Arps described the injuries she suffered, including a crushed pelvis, mangled leg, and a broken hand.

In December of last year, Dameron entered no contest pleas to a felony charge of Negligent Injury in the First Degree and a petty misdemeanor charge of Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of an Intoxicant.

At the time of the crash, Dameron's blood alcohol level was .215, nearly three times the legal limit. He also had his minor daughter with him in the vehicle at the time of the crash.

The Court denied Dameron's motion to defer his plea, meaning the felony conviction will remain on his record. The Court also revoked Dameron's driver's license for five years. The Court then ordered Dameron to pay more than \$262,000 in restitution to Arps. Dameron was also ordered to reimburse the Kaua'i Police Department for the cost of the blood draw that

determined his blood alcohol content. In addition to spending the year in jail, Dameron will serve a five-year term of probation.

The State, in its sentencing argument, had recommended that Dameron be sentenced to a five-year prison term, noting that Dameron had three prior arrests for Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of an Intoxicant.

Officer Caberto of KPD's Traffic Safety Section was the lead technical investigator on the case.

Prosecuting Attorney Justin F. Kollar stated, "We thank Jessica Arps for her strength and perseverance in surviving her terrible injuries and for her courage in speaking in court. Drunk driving destroys lives, plain and simple. Ms. Arps will be paying the price for this Defendant's crimes for the rest of her life. While we can't turn back time and prevent this crash from having happened, we can send a message to the community that drinking and driving is a violent crime and we take it very seriously."

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